

If You Think the President's Job a Sinicure, Just Follow Him Around the Clock



Fishing Has Been a Presidential Diversion for Many Administrations



The President Playing Golf With Vice President Sherman and W.J. Travis

Although Mr. Taft Has So Systematized His Conduct of the Nation's Affairs That Every Moment Is Utilized, Still His Typical Work Day Calls from Ten to Twenty Hours of Almost Unremitting Toil.

BEING President of the United States is a big, busy job, and those who have seen William Howard Taft perform in the position are inclined to the belief that he earns his little \$75,000 a year.

President Taft is one of the hardest workers in America, but much of his mighty labor is concealed in the systematic manner in which he utilizes each day, the ease and regularity lending the impression that he takes things sort of easy. Although he is a firm advocate of the eight-hour law, his day's activity ranges from ten to twenty hours—and he gets fat on it.

Mr. Taft usually arises at 7 o'clock, and goes through various exercises to reduce his flesh and keep his muscles in trim. These include a wrestling bout with his physical trainer, and often a fast round with the gloves. He then eats breakfast, enjoying the first meal of the day thoroughly. He chats with members of his family, perhaps about a new hat that Miss Helen wore the night before, or about an attraction at one of the theatres—almost anything but big matters of state, with which he will grapple within a few hours. He is just a plain man at the breakfast table.

During and after breakfast he reads "The Washington Post" and "The New-York Tribune," a special messenger being sent to the Union Station for "The Tribune" in order that the Chief Executive of the nation may peruse it before undertaking his daily labors in the executive offices. The reading of the two newspapers is done in a manner not different from that employed by any other American. First the headlines on the front page are scanned, and then he turns to the sporting pages to see how the Nationals, the Athletics, the Giants et al. fared the day before, for the President is a real baseball "fan." Then the important stories and such others as strike his fancy are read.

Along about 9:30 o'clock the President walks through a private passage to the executive offices, pleasantly greeting every one on his arrival. On his desk is a list of appointments for the day, and this he scrutinizes carefully. There are also several intimately personal letters for him to read and perhaps answer, but only in exceptional instances does he handle any great deal of mail, although the letters to him number about one hundred thousand a year.

RECEPTION FOR VISITORS.
A general reception of visitors is held from 10 to 10:30 o'clock, the President greeting nearly two hundred persons every day with a pleasant word and handshake for each. From far and wide come these folk to see the President, the event being an epoch in their lives. Mr. Taft is always in a buoyant spirit during this half hour, despite the fact that invariably he experiences trouble in handling a crowd and much prefers to pick out an acquaintance or an individual who has referred to a pet subject and take him to the Cabinet room for a chat. Secretary Hilges often verges on despair during this reception, which he tries to rush through without undue pressure, in spite of the President's tendency to be ultra-sociable with his visitors.

Senators and Representatives having business occupy the time of the President by appointment from 10:30 to 12 o'clock, except on Tuesdays and Fridays, when the Cabinet holds its attention from 11 to 1 o'clock or later. Subjects discussed at these conferences range from the appointment of a postmaster at Oshkosh to universal peace, sometimes the tariff, often the currency question, the Mexican situation or conditions in China. Sometimes there is an argument, but usually the Cabinet member asks the idea of the President or asks for advice or about the probable attitude of the administration. At these conferences the destiny of the country is shared to a great extent, as hardly a bill of any importance is introduced which does not at one time or another reach the President previous to its passage or defeat.

Visitors with business arrive between noon and 1 o'clock. This class includes leaders in every field of effort who come to Washington to confer with the President or seek his aid in some national project. A delegation from Boston may want him to speak at some celebration; a noted figure in the financial world may wish to give his ideas on the monetary question; a celebrated divine may have a religious subject to discuss; a labor chief may have a grievance against capital—every sort of mission is likely to be presented.

who are so anxious to shake your hand, Mr. President." Mr. Taft has an especial fondness for children, and no press of public business, no necessity for burning the midnight oil to make up for lost time, ever leads him to disappoint the little ones who want to see the man their fathers have elected President. Consequently, many a precious hour is spent greeting the school children from all over the land who, under the chaperonage of teachers and their own member of Congress, come to Washington and pay their respects to the Chief Executive.

Mrs. Taft, too, by the way, is equally solicitous for all the women's organizations that come to Washington, and as the President seldom denies her her slightest wish, he is not infrequently called away from his desk to stand with her and receive the women delegates to some one or other of the congresses and conferences which are more and more coming to select the national capital as their place of meeting.

The work of the President is too heavy. No man possessed of other than an iron constitution could perform it and maintain his health. One of the largest and most annoying—because so relatively unimportant—phases of the President's work is the distribution of patronage, the appointment of postmasters, collectors of customs, registers and receivers of the Land Office, etc. To the Senator and Representative interested these petty positions often assume greater importance than an international crisis, and many a weary hour is spent by the President trying to reconcile the differences between the factions in a state delegation regarding some position which at best probably will pay \$1,200 a year. To the man who loves politics this work may prove less obnoxious than it does to President Taft, but it is a waste of the time of any President, and should be entirely eliminated. President Taft has three times urged Congress to place all these minor places within the classified service, so that incumbents may hold office as long as they remain efficient and trustworthy, and vacancies may be filled by candidates who pass examinations prescribed by the Civil Service Commission. Sooner or later this reform will be achieved, but until it is the disposition of patronage must continue to occupy a share of the President's time wholly disproportionate to the importance of the places to be filled. Incidentally, the transfer of these petty offices to the classified service would remove all opportunity

telephone, the second by telegraph and the third by mail. An expert telegraph operator is a part of the White House force, and when there is much business a direct wire is rigged between the White House offices and the President's hotel in whatever town he may be. On one occasion such a wire was expeditiously rigged to his private car, and for the greater part of the night Secretary Hilges was in communication with the White House. On another, when a certain phase of the foreign relations was "squally," two wires were rigged, one to the hotel of the Secretary of State, in Florida, and the other to the hotel of the President in New England, while a secretary and operator in the White House offices acted as the medium of communication. By this means the President employed the advice of his Secretary of State

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President Taft Signing the Bill That Made Arizona the Forty Eighth State of the Union

for scandal or charges of abuse of patronage in connection with the election of delegates to the national convention, especially in the Southern States.

Surprise has often been expressed that the President could handle a job of the magnitude of the Presidency and still travel as much as has President Taft. That he can do so is due to the remarkable efficiency of the long distance telephone. With its valued assistance the Chief Executive is always within easy communication with the White House. Indeed, there have been times when Cabinet meetings were practically held with the assistance of the telephone. Several members of the Cabinet gathered at the White House, a direct line was secured to the point where the President happened to be, a secretary took the receiver at each end of the line and a discussion of ways and means only slightly less convenient than those conducted over the Cabinet table took place.

During the President's absence from Washington his mail and other business is sorted into three classes—one to be dispensed of by

as effectively, if slightly less conveniently, as he would have done had they both been in Washington.

The President's luncheon hour is 1:30 o'clock, but it usually requires from one to six messages from Mrs. Taft to get him to leave his work, and guests are nearly always kept waiting for him. He hates to leave his work to eat, but thoroughly enjoys eating when he gets at it.

Mrs. Taft Wife of the President

CAMPBELL STUDIO

morning on messages, speeches or papers. Often he labors far into the night, even though he has passed a most strenuous day, and it is no uncommon thing to see the light streaming from his study window even as dawn is breaking over the Potomac, which flows quietly not far below it.

The President is a total abstainer, and has not smoked for years. He attributes much of his ability to withstand hard work

The President is a Horseman of Noted Skill.



The President is Always Near a Telephone

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Miss Helen Taft, Daughter of President Taft, at the Washington Hunt and Race Club Races.



steady game straight down the course. His drives are not long, but always straight. He never slices or pulls, and his every shot is made with care, is never wild or reckless. Stout as he is, he is fast on the course, and it will make the fastest perspire to follow him, for he never slackens his pace.

Last fall, out in Grand Rapids, he was a guest at the Country Club, and several of the distinguished members of the party suggested that he make the first drive over the new course. After being urged not a little, he doffed his silk hat and handed his coat to the lamented Archie Butt and teed up his ball. His first drive was 180 yards the second for 200 yards, both straight down the middle of the course. He was too was to make the third drive.

On the Columbia course there is a green which is approached by a slope of 10 degrees and is about 45 feet high, but Mr. Taft never changes his speed in making the shot. He hardly pauses when he reaches the incline, but, digging his spiked toes into the turf, he ascends at the same rapid, although apparently easy, pace he employs on the level fairway.

Horseback riding is a form of exercise which the President thoroughly enjoys, although within the last year he has not indulged in it much. He rides gracefully and well, and presents a most imposing spectacle on a horse. He rides slowly most of the time, but occasionally spurs his mount to a brisk gallop. It usually requires two men to assist Mr. Taft in mounting a horse—one to hold the animal's head and the other to keep it from backing its flank away. Once on 16th street, as a penalty for his politeness, Mr. Taft was forced to ride nearly a block sprawled over the horse's back because he had dismounted to speak to a woman, and was unable to mount again because the horse persisted in averting away from the friendly carriage block the rider sought to empty. That was while he was Secretary of War, but he regards the incident as a great joke, as his sense of humor enables him to picture the spectacle he presented.

The theatre furnishes much diversion for the President, although he is seen frequently in the playhouses in Washington as much because of the fondness of Mrs. Taft for such pleasure as for any other reason. Mrs. Taft enjoys the theatre, and on her account Mr. Taft sometimes goes as often as three times in a week. Never

Continued on seventh page